

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1 – 15, 18 – 32, and 35 – 49 are pending, with claims 1, 22, 38, 39, 43, and 48 being independent. Initially, Applicants would like to thank the Examiner for indicating that claims 1 – 5, 7 – 15, 18, 20 – 22, 24 – 32, and 37 – 49 are allowable and that claims 6, 19, 23, 35, and 36 contain allowable subject matter.

Without conceding the propriety of the rejections, Applicants have amended claims 6, 19, 23, 35, and 36 to even more clearly recite and distinctly claim the presently claimed invention without intending to limit the scope thereof in order to expedite prosecution and pursue an early allowance. Support for the amendments may be found in the original claims and throughout the specification, including, for example, at page 9, paragraph [0029]. Therefore, no new matter has been added.

With regard to the outstanding rejections, Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to reconsider and withdraw these rejections in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 112

Claims 6 and 23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In particular, claims 6 and 23 have been rejected for the recitation of “when the flow passage is heated.” Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, claims 6 and 23 have been amended to recite “when the solution is passed through the flow passage while heating.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection has been obviated and thus, respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 19 and 36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In particular, claims 19 and 36 have been rejected as allegedly unclear if the aerosol particles being referenced are those of the aerosol as a whole or the aerosol particles of the first component or the liquid component. Without conceding the propriety of the rejection, claims 19 and 36 have been amended to recite that the mass median aerosol diameter of the first component aerosol particles is from about 0.3 to 2

µm. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection has been obviated and thus, respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

Claim 35 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. In particular, claim 35 has been rejected because the phrase “flows out of an the of the flow passage” is allegedly vague and confusing. To correct a typographical error, claim 35 has been amended to recite “flows out of the outlet of the flow passage.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection has been obviated and thus, respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

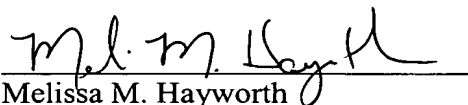
Conclusion

Without conceding the propriety of the rejections, claims 6, 19, 23, 35, and 36 have been amended, as provided above, to even more clearly recite and distinctly claim Applicants' invention without intending to limit the scope thereof in order to expedite prosecution and pursue an early allowance.

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the claims and allowance of the subject application is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number, if it is believed that prosecution of this application may be assisted thereby.

Respectfully submitted,

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